

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action mailed March 24, 2005, the shortened statutory period for filing a response having expired on June 24, 2005. In this regard, Applicant submits herewith a one-month extension petition to reset the deadline for responding to the Official Action to and including July 24, 2005. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has designated claims 14-19, 21, 24-28, 31-39 and 43-64 as objectionable as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but deemed allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Although Applicant disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the remaining claims for those reasons set forth in the Official Action, Applicant desires to expedite the obtaining of a patent on the present invention. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to place this application in condition for allowance.

Specifically, Applicant has rewritten dependent claims 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 28, 46 and 48 into independent form. Applicant has also rewritten dependent claims 24, 25, 26, 27 and 32 into newly proposed independent claims 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69, respectively. The rewriting of the latter dependent claims include all the limitations of their base claim and the intervening dependent claims. Applicant has also amended independent claim 13 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 17. Applicant has also amended independent claim 30 to include the limitations of allowable dependent claim 33. As to the remaining independent claim 40, Applicant has amended same to include the limitations of dependent claim 17. Applicant has also presented new independent claim 70 which is the combination of claim 40 and dependent claim 16. It is noted

that the Examiner agreed that dependent claims 16 and 17, with respect to independent claim 3, was allowable over the cited prior art. For these same reasons, it is believed that the combination of dependent claims 16 and 17 with independent claim 40 would also be allowable.

As it is believed that all of the issues raised by the Examiner in the Official action have been overcome by the above noted amendments, notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

As it is further believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 22, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Stephen B. Goldman
Registration No.: 28,512
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,
KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP
600 South Avenue West
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
(908) 654-5000
Attorney for Applicant